

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Hello, my name is Hannah Ticknor. I am 17 years old, and I am here to ask you to table Senate Bill 232.

Please do not pass yet another state symbol. Government should be reserved to deal with that which is important to preserving freedoms and increasing quality of life for it's citizens. A state pancake is unnecessary.

I understand that this bill is an effort to involve students in the legislative process, but there are so many ways to learn about government that do not create additional legislation. If we are looking for ways to educate classes in government processes, then maybe the students could hold mock legislative sessions in their own schools, electing representatives and senators from each class and then proposing and voting on bills for their own school - maybe they could have Teen Pact participants volunteer to help organize it and teach about the process. If the students desire is to promote Montana agriculture, then maybe they could find ways to promote using local produce and crops in their school cafeteria.

We are facing a budget shortage in Montana, and we should be looking for ways to cut costs and save limited tax dollars for needed programs. It is estimated that it costs between 2 and 3 thousand dollars to bring a proposal to committee. That is a pretty expensive pancake. For someone working at minimum wage, this is 362 hours, or over 2 months of 40 hour weeks, just to earn this amount.

As elected officials, I am asking you to please only consider legislation that is necessary to the well-being of Montanans. Please vote to table SB232.

Thank you for your time.

Hannah Ticknor
ticknortribe@msn.com